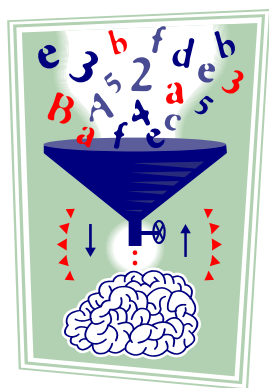


Fascinating Non-Fiction Middle School Books at the Pleasanton Public Library

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library
Children's Staff



Books are shelved in
Children's Non-Fiction Area
by Dewey Decimal Number and
Children's Biography Area
by Subject's Last Name
(unless otherwise noted).

Please ask at the Children's Desk
if you need help.

Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer



J133.43097 SCHANZER (143 p) *Audiobook available*
It started with two girls who, for unknown reasons, bend their bodies into bizarre shapes. The Puritan girls also started to mumble and twitch. The doctor announced they were bewitched when no other causes could be found. What followed was the true story of hysteria and corrupt officials that ultimately led to more than a dozen people's deaths.

They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The Birth of an American Terrorist Group

by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
J322.42097 BARTOLETTI (172 p)
Six restless young men raided the linens at a friend's mansion, pulled pillowcases over their heads, hopped on horses, and cavorted through the streets of Pulaski, Tennessee. They named their club the Ku Klux Klan. This is the story of how a secret terrorist group took root in America's democracy.



Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don't You Grow Weary



by Elizabeth Partridge
J323.1196 PARTRIDGE (72 p)
Readers are led straight into the chaotic, passionate, and deadly three months of protests that culminated in the landmark march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. Focusing on the courageous children who face terrifying violence in order to march alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., as they fight for the vote.

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 feet below the Chilean Desert

by Marc Aronson
J363.11962 ARONSON (134 p)



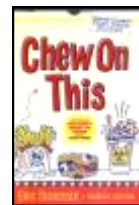
In August 2010, a mine collapse in the Chilean desert trapped 33 miners 2000 feet below the surface. For 69 days the men lived on little food, but never lost hope that help would come. This is a tremendous story of perseverance and determination as help came from around the world to save the lives of all 33 men.

Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives by Elizabeth Rusch



J363.3495 RUSCH (76 p)
Scientists in the Field series
These sleeping giants can wake up at any time, spewing lava down the countryside and killing all that's in their way. Join a volcano crisis team as you discover how scientist study volcanoes in Chile, Columbia, the Philippines, and elsewhere.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food by Eric Schlosser



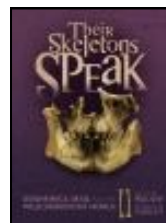
J394.12 SCHLOSSER (304 p)
Uncovers the true story about junk food and fast food restaurants and provides an in-depth look at how this food is made and served to kids.

The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity

by Elizabeth Rusch
J523.43 RUSCH (79 p)
The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, that were sent to explore Mars, lasting far past their projected lives of 3 months and sending back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet.



Their Skeletons Speak: Kennewick Man and the Paleoamerican World by Sally M. Walker



J581.63 RICHARDSON (129 p)
Who would have thought a dead man could cause so much drama? Learn about the processes used by scientists to discern the identity of the Kennewick Man and what this nine thousand-year-old skeleton revealed about the arrival of humans in North America.

Gorillas by Melissa Gish

J599.884 GISH (46 p)
Living Wild series
A look at gorillas, including their habitats, physical characteristics such as their large heads, behaviors, relationships with humans, and threatened status in the world today.



Pandemic Survival: It's Why You're Alive



by Anne Love and Jane Drake
J614.4 LOVE (122 p)
History is full of gruesome pandemics including the Black Death, yellow fever, and smallpox. Nasty symptoms are detailed as well as strange superstitions and the miracles of modern medicine. Readers are shown how humanity has survived past diseases and what we are doing to prevent future pandemics.

An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793

by Jim Murphy
J616.928 MURPHY (165 p)
It's 1793, and there is an invisible killer roaming the streets of Philadelphia — yellow fever! The conditions that helped the disease spread, and the heroic role that three black Philadelphians played in saving their city are vividly detailed.



This list represents a small selection of non-fiction that appeals to middle schoolers.

This list is not intended to limit a child's reading, for there is no "perfect" middle school book.

Pleasanton Public Library
Children's Services
400 Old Bernal Ave.
Pleasanton, California 94566

(925) 931-3400

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.- 9 p.m.

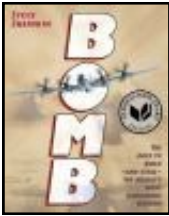
Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.- 5 p.m.



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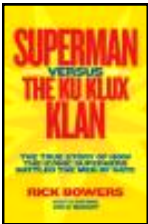
Bomb: The Race to Build, and Steal, the World's Most Dangerous Weapon
by Steve Sheinkin
J623.45119 SHEINKIN (266 p)
Audiobook available
While the shockwaves would come later, there were more than rumblings about the atom bomb after a German laboratory chemist discovered what made uranium atoms split in two. Witness the story of the atom bomb as Germany, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain pursued the ultimate weapon.



Pedal It! by Michelle Mulder
J629.2272 MULDER (48 p)
This book celebrates the humble bicycle — from the very first boneshakers to the sleek racing bikes of today, from handlebars to spokes to gear sprockets — and shows why and how bikes make the world a better place. Not only can bikes be used to power computers and generators, they can also reduce pollution, promote wellness and get a package across a crowded city — fast!



Superman versus the Ku Klux Klan: The True Story of How the Iconic Superhero Battled the Men of Hate by Rick Bowers
J741.5973 BOWERS (160 p)
The world needed a hero, and two men from Cleveland delivered just as WWII and the Ku Klux Klan became prominent. Trace the origins of the caped crusader and discover the role the civil rights movement played in its evolution.



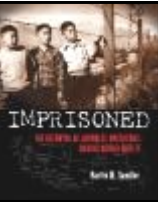
Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (with a Few Flat Tires Along the Way) by Sue Macy
J796.6082 MACY (96 p)
Susan B. Anthony once said about the bicycle that it “has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world.” It gave women the freedom of mobility and was a big help in empowering women’s liberation.



How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous by Georgia Bragg
J920.BRAGG (184 p)
Some famous men and women of history died quite painfully. Here is a collection filled with all the gory details of a world without painkillers or anesthesia. Beethoven is among those featured, and George Washington and Henry VIII are also included.



Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II
by Martin W. Sandler

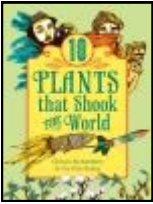


J940.531777 SANDLER (176p)
Pearl Harbor made Japanese Americans look like would-be traitors in the U.S. government’s eyes. Learn how America’s Japanese-American internment camps forever changed the lives of those forced to live following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

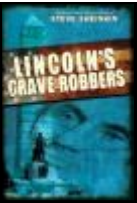
Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance by Doreen Rappaport
J940.5318 RAPPAPORT(228 p)
Some said it was impossible, but the people behind these 21 accounts did not listen to them. See how some Jews defied the Nazis by staging mass escapes from concentration camps during the Holocaust.



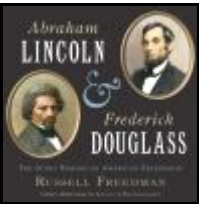
10 Plants that Shook the World
by Gillian Richardson
J970.011 WALKER (136 p)
When was the last time a plant change your life? Uncover the secrets of ten plants that changed the world in a guide that reveals the global impact of pepper, rubber’s role in the future of transportation, and more.



Lincoln’s Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin
J973.7092 SHEINKIN (214 p)
A true-crime thriller set in 1876, Boyd’s gang had the perfect plan to get him out of jail: Kidnap President Lincoln’s body and hold it until their buddy was released. Follow the true-life story as chapters alternate points of view among the Secret Service, the kidnappers, and a double agent in this true story of would-be grave robbers and those who kept Lincoln’s body safe.



Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass
by Russell Freedman
J973.70922 FREEDMAN (128 p)
The lives of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were surprisingly similar and parallel. Both were self-taught, loved books, and came from poor upbringings to reach places of great power. Even though they met a few brief times, Douglass helped Lincoln end the Civil War, abolish slavery, and bring the country back together.



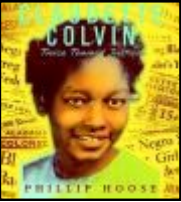
Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Legacy by Albert Marrin
J974.71041 MARRIN (182 p)
Tragedy struck the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City on March 25, 1911. The crowded factory burst into flames, killing 146 people, mostly women, locked inside the building. The events are revealed leading to this disaster and how working conditions were changed as a result for all Americans.



Biographies

shelved in Children’s Biography section

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
by Philip Hoose



JB COLVIN (133 p) *Audiobook available*
On March 2, 1955, Claudette Colvin, an impassioned teenager fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again in a landmark lawsuit that helped strike down Jim Crow laws.

The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students by Suzanne Jurmain
JB CRANDALL (150 p)
In 1831, Prudence Crandall opened a school for young women. And not long after she endured being dragged to jail and put on trial for breaking the law. She saw her schoolhouse vandalized



and set on fire. It was all in the name of trying to teach African–American girls geography, history, reading, philosophy, and chemistry. This account of a brave woman will give readers a glimpse of what it’s like to try and change the world when few agree with you.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart by Candace Fleming
JB EARHART (118 p)

Amelia Earhart’s accomplishments made her the most famous aviatrix in history. Her fame may have increased further by her mysterious disappearance while trying to fly around the world at the equator.



Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World by Sy Montgomery
JB GRANDIN (148 p)



Temple Grandin’s parents knew she was a little different from other kids when she was growing up. Doctors diagnosed her with autism and recommended she be put in a hospital. Her parents sent her to school instead. She went on to become a ground-breaking scientist and a designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities.

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sis

JB SIS
Through annotated illustrations, journals, maps, and dreamscapes, Peter Sis shows what life was like for a child who loved to draw, proudly wore the red scarf of a Young Pioneer, stood guard at the giant statue of Stalin, and believed whatever he was told to believe. But adolescence brought questions. Cracks began to appear in the Iron Curtain, and news from the West slowly filtered into the country.



Tom Thumb: The Remarkable True Story of a Man in Miniature by George Sullivan
JB SULLIVAN (128 p)
In 1838, Charles S. Stratton was born, a little large, but perfect in every way. For some reason, he stopped growing. By the time he was four, Charles was still only two feet tall and weighed a mere 15 pounds. It was at this time P.T.Barnum dubbed Charles “Tom Thumb” and took him on a tour around the world.

